

CANADA Daily News and Updates June 12th 2024

Ocean Updates

- Blank Sailings on the Rise at Canadian Ports as Carriers Fret over Potential Rail Strike
- French Ports Face a Month of Chaos and Disruption as Workers Strike
- ILA Suspends Talks, Warns of “Little Faith” in Reaching Deal on Time for U.S. East Coast, Gulf Coast Ports

Rail and Truck Updates

- CN Seeks Binding Talks With Teamsters in Labour Dispute

Customs Regulatory

- Tentative Agreement Reached for More than 9,000 Workers at Canada Border Services Agency, Strike Action Averted

Ocean Updates

Blank Sailings on the Rise at Canadian Ports as Carriers Fret over Potential Rail Strike

As uncertainty hangs over Canada’s rail system being shut down by a strike, shipping lines on the transpacific trade have begun to cancel calls to the country’s main pacific gateways, Vancouver and Prince Rupert.

“Anticipation of a strike keeps carriers on their toes, with some already taking significant action to omit, blank or swap calls into Vancouver in June and beyond,” an eeSea trade update said.

“There are 14 port swaps and diversions away from Canada into U.S. gateway ports confirmed from week 24 onward, as well as three completed since mid-May,” it added.

Read more in an [article from The Loadstar](#).

French Ports Face a Month of Chaos and Disruption as Workers Strike

A month of chaos and disruption could lie ahead for France’s major ports, including box hubs Le Havre and Marseille-Fos.

Labour unions representing dockers and other port workers look set to carry out their threat to stage several one-day strikes, as well as numerous four-hour work stoppages this month, in protest over pension reform that increased the statutory retirement age in France.

The first of the 24-hour strikes took place on Friday, with Le Havre’s ro-ro, bulk and container terminals reportedly blocked by dockers. Four ship calls were cancelled and a further 18 calls delayed. The same day, an estimated 600 dockers and other port workers blocked the main entry point of trucks at the Fos box terminal.

Among the other French ports hit by the stoppages are Dunkirk, Rouen, Bordeaux and Nantes Saint-Nazaire.

Read more in an [article from The Loadstar](#).

ILA Suspends Talks, Warns of “Little Faith” in Reaching Deal on Time for U.S. East Coast, Gulf Coast Ports

The International Longshoremen’s Association is continuing its tough stance against port automation, announcing on Monday the suspension of contract negotiations due to an issue over automated gates. Noting it is only four months until the master contract expires covering all U.S. East Coast and Gulf Coast ports, the ILA said in its statement that it has “very little faith that these issues will be addressed in time.” In the past, the union has said it will not go past the September 30 expiration and would strike.

The suspension came just one day before the ILA and the United States Maritime Alliance (USMX) were scheduled to meet for talks regarding the master contract. Talks have been underway since last year for the local contracts with the goal of having completed that phase and now moving into the master contract. The ILA says it will not meet with USMX until the current automation issue is resolved.

Read more in an [article from The Maritime Executive](#).

Rail Updates

CN Seeks Binding Talks With Teamsters in Labour Dispute

Canadian National Railway amped up pressure on the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference to resolve their ongoing labour dispute.

CN said its June 6 offer to enter binding arbitration with the union was the result of the union rejecting all the railroad’s offers and exiting voluntary arbitration.

Customs Regulatory

Tentative Agreement Reached for More than 9,000 Workers at Canada Border Services Agency, Strike Action Averted

The Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) and the Customs and Immigration Union (CIU) have reached a tentative agreement for more than 9,000 workers at CBSA, avoiding potential job action at Canada’s borders.

Full details of the tentative agreement will be announced once the ratification kit is available for members on Thursday, June 13.